

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday

February 8, 2026

10:00am



**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Inspired by the bold and boundless hospitality of Jesus, we are “open to all,” which means we welcome and accept all people into the life of our Church without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, age, economic status, political affiliation, physical or mental capacity, or religious belief. We believe that God’s call is given to all people, and we embrace the Spirit that continues to cross boundaries in order to unite the world.

**Childcare is available for birth – kindergarten in the childcare room located in the Cornwell Center (on main level). Please see a greeter for more information.
Worship activities for children are available in the Narthex.**

We invite you to prepare for worship in silence while listening to the prelude.

Prelude

“Fountain Reverie”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organ
Percy Fletcher

Call to Worship

Dane Jordan

Leader: Blessed are the ones who come with open hearts, seeking justice, mercy, and peace.

People: We gather as those named and claimed by love.

Leader: Blessed are the meek, the grieving, the merciful, the hungry for what is right.

People: We are the kingdom of God. let the world know us by the way we live, the way we speak, and the way we love.

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

See pages 10 and 11
LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

Welcome

Layne Smith

*If you are our guest today, please scan the QR code below
so we may offer you our gratitude for joining us today.*



*Passing of the Peace

A Moment for Questions

J. Kevin Gray

*Jesus didn't rush people to answers.
He asked questions — and he let them linger.
So, in this moment, we're going to do the same.
As we sit in silence, prayerfully consider how these questions guide your steps in your daily life:*

*Is this just?
Does this create mercy?
Does this grow grace and love?
You don't need to solve anything.
Just listen.
Let the questions breathe.*

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

*And after this silence, we'll hear a song that reminds us
that some of the deepest truths are still unfolding...
"Blowin' in the Wind."*

Musical Reflection

Amelia Meena, David Young, and J. Kevin Gray
Bob Dylan

"Blowin' in the Wind"

How many roads must a man walk down
before they call him a man?
How many seas must a white dove sail
before she sleeps in the sand?
How many times must the cannonballs fly
before they're forever banned?

The answer, my friend,
is blowin' in the wind.
The answer is blowin' in the wind.

How many years must a mountain exist
before it is washed to the sea?
How many years can some people exist
before they're allowed to be free?
How many times can a man turn his head
and pretend that he just doesn't see?

The answer, my friend,
is blowin' in the wind.
The answer is blowin' in the wind.

How many times must a man look up
before he can see the sky?
How many ears must one man have
before he can hear people cry?
How many deaths will it take till he knows
that too many people have died?

The answer, my friend,
is blowin' in the wind.
The answer is blowin' in the wind.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSV)

Eve Bilbrey, Congregant

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Leader: This is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

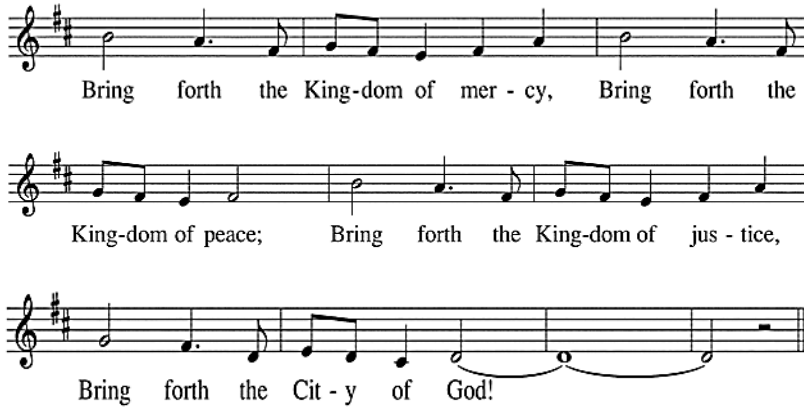
*Sermon Hymn

“Bring Forth the Kingdom of Justice”

Marty Haugen

You are salt for the earth, O people: Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people: Life in the Kingdom of God!

Refrain:



You are the light on the hill, O people: Light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: Shine for the Kingdom of God! [Refrain]

You are a seed of the word, O people: Bring forth the Kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice grow in the Kingdom of God! [Refrain]

Sermon

“Choose Your Reality”

Layne Smith

A Moment to Reflect

Musical Reflection

“Rejoice and be Glad”

Dawn Anthony
inspired by Matthew 5

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.

Refrain:

Rejoice and be glad for great is your reward in heaven:
For persecuted—the prophets which were before you.
You are the light of this world, let your light shine before man.
So rejoice and be exceedingly glad.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness; they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.

Refrain:

Rejoice and be glad for great is your reward in heaven:
For persecuted—the prophets which were before you.
You are the salt of the earth, let not your savior be lost.
Glorify the Lord at all costs.

Bridge:

So let us be peacemakers: God's children.
Blessed are the tried and true, honoring God's kingdom.
Though shunned, reviled, rebuked;
casting light in the darkness, a city on a hill;
help us to rejoice and be exceedingly glad.

Refrain:

Rejoice and be glad for great is your reward in heaven:
For persecuted—the prophets which were before you.
You are the light of this world, let your light shine before man.
So rejoice and be exceedingly glad.

Church at Prayer

Marina Luckhoo

The Lord's Prayer

Our God who is in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day, our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

Invitation to Offering

*You are invited to give by scanning the QR code below or
dropping your offering in the plate.*



Nancy Culp, Deacon

Offertory Anthem

"True Light"

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

Almighty God is light. He lives in us as true light.
In the beginning, out of the darkness, God created light.
He lives in us as true light. Almighty God is light.
He lives in us as true light.

Don't let the light that you've given me die, and don't desert my mind,
but let the one who serves you praise you again and again.
He lives in us as true light.

In the beginning, out of the darkness, God created light.
He lives in us as true light. Almighty God is light.
He lives in us as true light.

Chancel Choir
Keith Hampton

You are the one who judges right from wrong.
Your glory excites no envy,
but let the one who serves you praise you again and again.
He lives in us as true light.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I want the world to know.
God gave the world true light!

***Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures, here below.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication**

Nancy Culp, Deacon

***Closing Hymn**

Traditional Spiritual

“I’m Gonna Live, So God Can Use Me”
I'm gonna live, so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime.
I'm gonna live, so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna walk, so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime.
I'm gonna walk, so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna talk, so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime.
I'm gonna talk, so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna live, so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime.
I'm gonna live, so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime.

Responding to the Word

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Pastoral Blessing

Postlude

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organ
arr. Marianne Kim

“Ain’t-a-That-Good News”

Immediately following worship, members are invited to remain in the sanctuary for a brief congregational meeting and vote.



If you are our guest today, please connect with a minister after worship and receive a Welcome Bag.



Audio/Video Team Members are Wes Cobb, Joe Kuhlmann,
Hannah Combs and Eric Roberts.



At Myers Park Baptist Church, we strive for inclusive language. However, there are times due to the historical nature or context of the text that we choose to leave language unchanged as initially presented. Be assured that MPBC holds God as non-gender-specific; God's essence encompasses all.

HOW TO JOIN MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Becoming a member of Myers Park Baptist is as simple as filling out a joining card.

To receive a card or learn more, contact Rev. Marina Luckhoo at
mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org.




*To learn more about upcoming events, our church portal,
social media pages, and weekly newsletter, simply scan the QR code below.*

WE'RE GLAD YOU ARE HERE

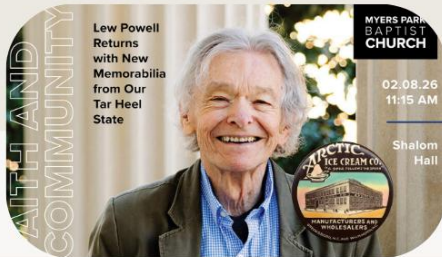
CONNECT WITH US IN ONE EASY STOP

- EVENTS
- GUESTS
- GIVE
- PRAY
- WEBSITE
- MEMBER PORTAL



Learn more about us and how to get involved.
Just point the camera on your mobile phone at
the QR Code to access the items listed above.

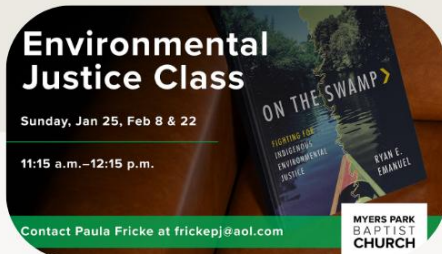
Join Us After Worship for a SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP



FAITH & COMMUNITY CLASS

Shalom Hall

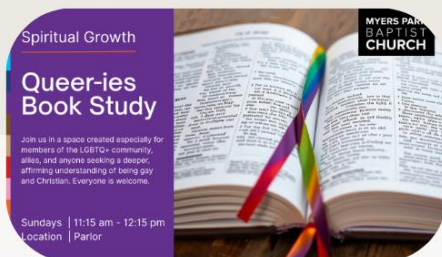
Join us as former *Charlotte Observer* editor Lew Powell shares newly curated memorabilia from across North Carolina—complete with his humor and fascinating stories. Don't miss this light, engaging look at our state's cultural gems.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CLASS

Room 254

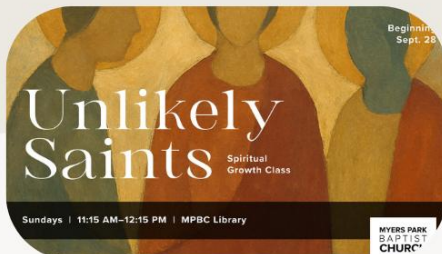
MOJO's Environmental Justice Group (EJ) invites you to a study of the book *On the Swamp: Fighting for Indigenous Environmental Justice* by Duke Professor Dr. Ryan Emanuel, led by Sofia Bartholomew. This powerful book blends scientific insight with storytelling.



QUEER-IES BOOK STUDY

Library

Join us in a space created especially for members of the LGBTQ+ community, allies, and anyone seeking a deeper, affirming understanding of being gay and Christian. Everyone is welcome.



UNLIKELY SAINTS

Room 250

Scripture can be complicated and confusing. To address these challenges, join us as we take an open minded and imaginative approach to seeking how God continues to be known to us through the Bible.



FOR CHILDREN

Room 210

Our loving teachers welcome children in grades 1-5 into a joyful, creative space where friendships grow, faith comes alive through playful activities, and tasty snacks fuel learning. Every child is seen, celebrated, inspired, and encouraged.



FOR YOUTH

Youth Hall

Youth in grades 6-12 gather for meaningful, youth-led sessions exploring biblical journeys and their relevance today through discussion and creativity, building community, deepening faith, and discovering how God walks with us in every moment.

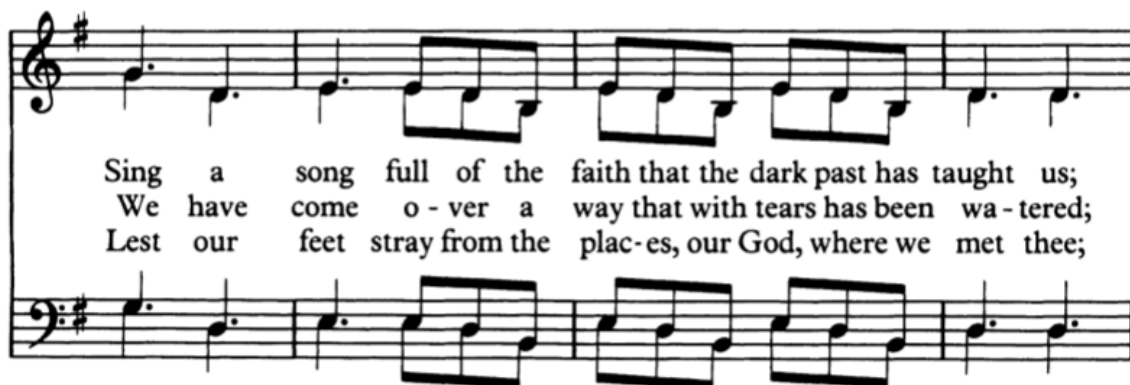
Lift Every Voice and Sing

1. Lift ev - ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring,
 2. Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening rod,
 3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,

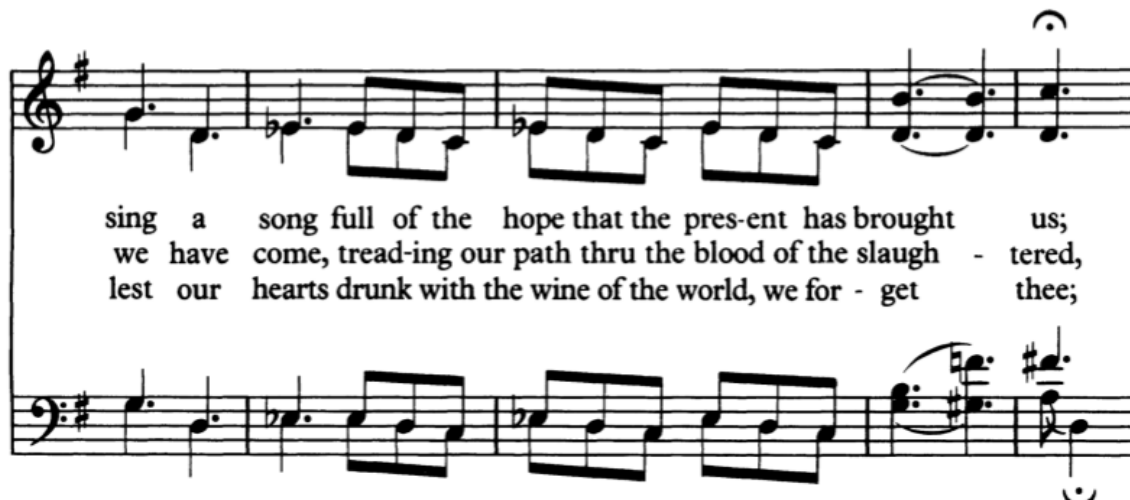
ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty;
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,

let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 come to the place for which our fa - thers sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
 we have come, tread - ing our path thru the blood of the slaugh - tered,
 lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

WORDS: James Weldon Johnson, 1921

MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

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LIFT EVERY VOICE

Irr.

Our Covenant

We, the members of the Myers Park Baptist Church, are a people on a journey of faith. By God's grace we are experiencing love through Jesus Christ and in the community of the faithful. We are discovering in this experience our freedom to become new creatures and our responsibility to be faithful stewards of our lives and of this world.

We will be open to all new light, strengthened by God and each other in our faith. We will sustain a critical examination of Scripture, belief and ritual as interpreters of God's active presence in the world. We will accept controversy as a reality of life together and an opportunity for growth toward maturity. We covenant to be a community of God's New Creation and affirm that we are open to all and closed to none.

We covenant together to nurture this church as a community of faith and as an instrument for reconciliation in the world: by worship, by Christian education, by the dedication of our personal and material resources and by all the other ways we express the significance of our lives with God and one another.

We covenant together to be priests celebrating God's presence in community and in the world, believing we are participants in God's kingdom on Earth.

OUR MINISTERS

J. Kevin Gray

Minister of Music & Worship
kgray@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Dane Jordan

Interim Minister of Youth
djordan@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Associate Minister
mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Interim Senior Minister
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We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 8

10:00am-11:00am | Worship – Sanctuary
11:00am | Congregational Meeting & Vote
11:15am-12:15am | Spiritual Growth Classes for all ages – Multiple Locations
12:15pm-1:15pm | Second Sunday Lunch Bunch- Queens Cafeteria
4:00pm-6:00pm | The Youth Journey Fellowship – Youth Hall

Monday, February 9

9:45am-12:00pm | Roundtable meeting – Parlor

Thursday, February 12

8:00am-3:30pm | Roof Above Meal Prep – Kitchen

Sunday, February 15

9:15am-9:45am | Reception Honoring Barry Metzger
10:00am-11:00am | Worship – Sanctuary
11:15am-12:15am | Spiritual Growth Classes for all ages – Multiple Locations
4:00pm-6:00pm | The Youth Journey Fellowship – Youth Hall

We occasionally take photographs during our worship service. If you would prefer not to be included, please contact Laura Geer | Communications Director | lgeer@myersparkbaptist.org.

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